

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
Aug 15, 2006

Subject to Approval at the September 2006 CARAG Meeting

Board Members Attending: Jill Bode, Rick Bojko, Cindy Christian, Thatcher Imboden, Ellan Meyer, Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard-Graham, Aaron Rubenstein and Howard Verson. (Absent: none)

Welcome: The CARAG Board is made up of volunteers who also volunteer time on other neighborhood committees and organizations. Scott Engel, the CARAG community coordinator, can be reached at 612-823-2520. CARAG is a democratic organization; membership and voting privileges are open to residents, property owners, and business owners in the neighborhood.

Approve Agenda & Minutes: Motions were passed to approve the agenda and the July meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: (Cindy Christian) CARAG has \$12105.01 in the operations account, \$7089.14 in asset accounts. CD#957935 is coming due; by unanimous vote, this money will be reinvested in another CD. A 2006 Budget Report, a proposed 2007 Budget, and a CARAG NRP Administrative Contract Budget Plan were presented for discussion. These will be voted on at the September CARAG meeting.

The UNN bank account has a balance of \$5374.25 as of Jul 31, 2006. The July issue net profit was \$292.52.

Five neighborhood organizations applied for grants from the CARAG annual charity distribution. Each group gave a short presentation, and then each neighborhood member weighed-in on their choice for the distribution by "sticker-dot" voting. The organizations receiving funds will be: Joyce Uptown Food Shelf, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Twin Cities Underground Teen Center, VOA-Southwest Seniors Center, and Eco-Minds.

City Council Member Remington's Report: (Ralph Remington) not present.

Zoning: (Aaron Rubenstein) AfterBar Restaurant, at 913 W Lake St, applied for a full liquor license allowing service until 2 AM daily. After the city's public hearing on this application on Aug 2, the CARAG Zoning Committee drafted a resolution recommending the city deny the liquor license as requested, but recommending approval if serving of alcoholic beverages ceases at 11 pm Sunday-Thursday and 12 midnight Friday and Saturday, and adequate off-street parking can be provided without impact on surrounding residences. The resolution passed 28-10 with 2 abstentions.

In development projects adjacent to CARAG, the GRECO project at Lyn/Lake is undergoing a significant re-design to scale back the project after tax increment financing was not obtained for the parking ramp. The proposed Hotel Uptown in the 3000 block of Holmes was the topic of a large ECCO meeting at which the developer presented some early configuration options. No news from Calhoun Square.

NRP Updates (Cindy Christian, David Omer) The Livability Committee proposed spending \$24,775 of CARAG NRP funds allocated toward park improvements to replace and add picnic tables, park seating, and bike racks at Bryant Square Park. Approved 22-0 with 8 abstaining (Board vote: 7-0-2).

As presented at prior meetings, a NRP Plan Modification was proposed to move about \$89,000 (program principal, plus some associated administrative costs) from Strategy 1.3 "Historic Housing Preservation Program" to Strategy 2.1 "Rental Property Improvement Program." This modification would also make a

minor language change to allow condominium associations and rental units to participate as well.
Approved by unanimous vote.

The Rain Garden Workshop date has been changed to Thursday, September 28th, 6:30-8:30, at Bryant Square Park.

The NRP Advisory Committee is creating a survey to gather feedback about NRP Phase 1. Surveys will be sent to all CARAG households in early September. The board will approve the final survey before it is sent out.

UNN Budget for FY2007 Copies of the budget were available but the budget was not formally presented; there were no questions or comments.

CARAG Annual Meeting: Potluck Dinner & Elections Nominations are now open for next year's CARAG board, to be elected at the September CARAG meeting. Current nominees are: Jill Bode, Rick Bojko, Anna Matthes, Ellen Meyer, Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard Graham, Dan Qualy, Aaron Rubenstein, Howard Verson, and Bob Winthrop. Nominations are accepted until the election at the September meeting. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.